

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) An essentially purified HPV18 L1 protein comprising a sequence of amino acids as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claims 5-10 (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) Virus-like particles comprised of recombinant L1 protein, or recombinant L1 + L2 proteins of human papillomavirus 18, wherein the L1 protein comprises a sequence of amino acids as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 and the L2 protein comprises a sequence of amino acids as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

12. (Original) The virus-like particles of claim 11 wherein the recombinant L1 protein or the recombinant L2 proteins is produced in yeast.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of producing the virus-like particles of claim 11, comprising:

(a) transforming yeast with a recombinant DNA molecule encoding papillomavirus L1 protein or papillomavirus L1 + L2 proteins; wherein the L1 protein comprises a sequence of amino acids as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 and the L2 protein comprises a sequence of amino acids as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4

(b) cultivating the transformed yeast under conditions that permit expression of the recombinant DNA molecule to produce the recombinant papillomavirus protein; and

(c) isolating the recombinant papillomavirus protein to produce ~~to~~ the virus-like particles of Claim 11.

14. (Original) Recombinant papillomavirus protein produced by the method of claim 13.

15. (Currently Amended) A vaccine comprising the virus-like particles of Claim 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical compositions comprising the virus-like particles of Claim 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. (Original) A method of preventing papillomavirus infection comprising administering the vaccine of Claim 15 to a host.

Claim 18-19 (Canceled).

20. (Original) A method for inducing an immune response in an animal comprising administering the virus-like particles of Claim 11 to an animal.